

REMARKS

Claims:

Claims 1, 6-12, 17-23, 28-34, 39-45, and 50-55 are being withdrawn in favor of a continuation to be submitted during the pendency of the present case.

Claims 2-5, 13-16, 24-27, 35-38, 46-49 were indicated as comprising allowable subject matter, and were "objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Hence, Claims 2 and 5 have been amended to comprise independent claims, incorporating the text of Claim 1, while dependent Claims 3 and 4 depend from Claim 2.

Similarly, Claims 13 and 16 have been amended to comprise independent claims, incorporating the text of Claim 12, while dependent Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 13.

Further, Claims 24 and 27 have been amended to comprise independent claims, incorporating the text of Claim 23, while dependent Claims 25 and 26 depend from Claim 24.

Still further, Claims 35 and 38 have been amended to comprise independent claims, incorporating the text of Claim 34, while dependent Claims 36 and 37 depend from Claim 35.

Additionally, Claims 46 and 49 have been amended to comprise independent claims, incorporating the text of Claim 45, while dependent Claims 47 and 48 depend from Claim 46.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-5, 13-16, 24-27, 35-38, 46-49 are allowable and respectfully requests allowance thereof.

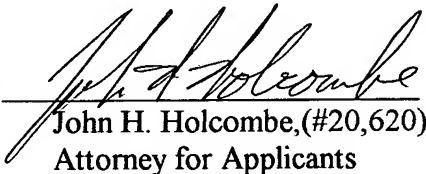
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Cited Art:

USPN 5,995,306, Contreras et al., cited by the Examiner, has been examined and as best understood, does not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention.

Hence, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 2-5, 13-16, 24-27, 35-38, 46-49 thereover.

Respectfully submitted,
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